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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 09/717,332
Filed: November 20, 2000
Examiner: J. Hirl
Art Unit: 2121
Inventor: Josephson, et al.
Title: MULTICRITERIAL DECISION
MAKING SYSTEM AND
METHOD
Attorney Docket: OSU1159-074D

TELEPHONE INTERVIEW
SUMMARY

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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| CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(A) | |
| Date of Deposit: | <i>July 6, 2005</i> |
| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited facsimile transmission to Patent Technology Center 2100, Art Unit 2121 at 703-872-9306. | |
| <i>3 pages</i> | <i>Trisha M. Beachy</i> Trisha M. Beachy |

Sir:

Pursuant to MPEP 713.04, Applicant is submitting this summary of the substance of
the June 7, 2005 telephone interview with Examiner Hirl.

U.S. App. Serial No. 09/717,332
Examiner Hirl
Art Unit 2121

REMARKS

On June 7, 2005 at 10:00 AM, Dr. John Josephson, Inventor, and Carol Stovsky, Applicant's representative, participated in a telephone interview with Examiner Hirl to discuss the present application. Prior to the interview, a proposed amendment to the application with new claims was submitted to the Examiner for consideration.

The participants also discussed claim 1 and the Amado reference. The Examiner has maintained that the claims are too general and that the generalized claims are in the prior art. The Examiner suggested that claims are so general as to cover a genetic algorithm and the application of an objective function to a decision alternative. Applicant explained that an objective function considers only one criterion and that the present invention is directed to evaluation of decision alternatives according to multiple criteria. Applicant further suggested that the proposed claims have explicit limitations related to the use of multiple criteria in evaluating, filtering, and examining decision alternatives. Applicant finally suggested that the Amado reference upon which the Examiner has relied is not directed in any way to examination or selection of decision alternatives from a discrete set of decision alternatives and does not discuss or even suggest use of multiple criteria in evaluation, filtering, or examining decision alternatives.

The Examiner suggested rewriting the claims to clarify the steps performed by the software processes of the invention. Applicant agreed to rewrite the claims for clarity and to further emphasize that the present invention supports exploration of

U.S. App. Serial No. 09/717,332
Examiner Hirl
Art Unit 2121

decision alternatives according to multiple criteria. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's willingness to consider proposed claims in order to identify allowable claim language for the invention.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 6, 2005

By: Carol G. Stovsky
Carol G. Stovsky
Registration No.: 42,171
Standley Law Group LLP
495 Metro Place South, Suite 210
Dublin, Ohio 43017-5319
Tel.: 614-792-5555
Fax: 614-792-5536
cstovsky@standleyllp.com